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of the ancient republics rendered their [the writers'] illustrations to some extent imperfect"; but Mr. Dawson will doubtless be able to maintain his ground. More than one passage in the above-named work of Mr. Freeman strongly supports him. Why, then, divide the suggestion from its proof? To no portion of the Introduction is this question more pertinent, than to that which immediately precedes our last quotation.

The Synoptical Table prefixed to the body of the work seems to be carefully drawn up, and cannot fail to be of service in the analytical study of the essays which follow.

In closing this notice we are glad to turn again from partial differences of opinion to acknowledge the editor's unwearied labors in behalf of a work which deserves and will reward all his zeal.

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6. — *Life of Edward Livingston.* By CHARLES HAVENS HUNT. With an Introduction by GEORGE BANCROFT. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1864. 8vo. pp. xxiv., 448.

THIS work is a valuable addition to our historical literature, and Mr. Hunt deserves much credit for preparing so careful a biography of a man whose fame is an honor to America, but whose reputation has never been equal to his deserts, and has been surpassed by that of many of his contemporaries who were vastly his inferiors, not only in virtue and talents, but also in their labors for the public good. This is not strange, or to be complained of; for there is little to attract popular admiration in the nature of Livingston's claim to remembrance. His fame will probably always be confined to a comparatively small circle, but in that circle it will be pure and permanent. Although he rendered valuable service to the country as a public man on many occasions, and displayed as Secretary of State and as Minister to France during Jackson's administration ability of a very high order, his career as a statesman need not detain long the student of our history. He belonged to the generation which followed the Revolution, and had no hand in the original shaping of our institutions. The period over which his life extended was one marked by little greatness either in men or in events. To the student of our national development it is indeed a period full of interest and importance, as that in which the real tendencies of our principles of government and of our social conditions were manifesting themselves, and in which our political and social organization was gradually taking on its definite form. But the processes of national development were but imperfectly represented in public

affairs; they were obscure, wide spread, and require to be traced by the philosophical historian. They are not recorded in the annals of the times. The fifty years after the Revolution are for the most part a dry period to one who reads history only in events.

Had Edward Livingston been nothing more than a distinguished politician, a member of Congress, a member of the Cabinet, during this time, it would not have been worth while to write his life at any great length. His great work, and one which places his name very high among the benefactors of his country and of mankind, was in the field of jurisprudence, not of politics.

At the close of a masterly Introduction to the volume before us, Mr. Bancroft justly says: —

“His fame was due to the fact that Edward Livingston, more than any other man, was the representative of the system of penal and legal reform which flows by necessity from the nature of our institutions. The code which he prepared at the instance of the State of Louisiana is in its simplicity, completeness, and humanity at once an impersonation of the man, and an exposition of the American constitutions. If it has never yet been adopted as a whole, it has proved an unfailing fountain of reforms, suggested by its principles. In this work more than in any other may be seen the character and life-long faith of the author. The great doctrines which it develops will, as time advances, be more and more nearly reduced to practice, for they are but the expression of true philanthropy, and, as even the heathen said, ‘Man loves his fellow-man whether he will or no.’”

Mr. Hunt has in the main executed his task with judgment and discretion, but it is a serious fault in his work that it does not afford a sufficient and satisfactory analysis of Livingston's code, and fails to give to the reader the means of judging for himself of its merits. Two articles in our own journal have been devoted to its consideration, and that which appeared in the number for October, 1836 (No. XCIII.), written by a distinguished and competent critic, affords a far better view of the scope and nature of Livingston's work, of its originality and importance, than is to be found in Mr. Hunt's pages. This defect gives to Mr. Hunt's book a want of proportion which greatly diminishes its value, — the minor events and incidents of Livingston's life occupying far too large a space in comparison to that allotted to the work on which his fame will rest, and which most plainly exhibits the principles and character of the man.

Mr. Hunt's style is sedate and serious, and usually suited to the matter of which he is treating; he occasionally, however, enters upon a train of reflection remote from his topic, and lays himself open to severe animadversion both in respect to style and thought. A passage

of striking inelegance of expression and feebleness of thought occurs at the close of the first chapter. The care and conscientiousness with which he has executed his work is manifest throughout the volume, but he does not show that sympathetic power of imagination which enables the biographer to reproduce vividly and in living presence the man of whom he writes. He also occasionally fails to seize the force of the facts which he narrates, and now and then he has slurred over circumstances in Livingston's life which deserved full treatment, as, for instance, the long distrust and dislike with which he was regarded by the Creoles of Louisiana, and the intimate relations which, for a time at least, he held with the Lafittes, — "the pirates of the Gulf," — and which ought to have been accounted for in so elaborate a biography.

One minor matter of some interest, which Mr. Hunt decides, as we think, too summarily, is the authorship of the memorable Proclamation concerning nullification, of the 10th of December, 1832. He appears to assume that the credit of it is due, with very trifling exception, to Livingston. But from a comparison of Mr. Parton's statements (*Life of Jackson*, Vol. III. p. 466) with his own, the truth would seem to be in accordance with the probability, that the form and verbal expression of the Proclamation are mainly due to Livingston, while the argument and thought embodied in it were original with Jackson, and derived by the Secretary from his manuscript notes, and from conversation with him. The discussion of the part of the composition to be ascribed to the one or the other is similar to that concerning the authorship of Washington's Farewell Address. The popular judgment will continue to give credit for the Address to Washington; for the Proclamation, to Jackson.\*

Mr. Hunt's volume is beautifully got up, and with few exceptions very correctly printed. It is an honorable monument to his own industry and candor, as well as to the name of Edward Livingston; and whatever be its defects, it will be of service to the student of our history, and a lasting addition to the records of our great men.

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\* Mr. Greeley, in his "*American Conflict*," Vol. I. p. 95, says: "It is abundantly established that the original draft was the President's own. . . . The language may in part be Livingston's; the position and the principles are wholly Jackson's." We have no question that the principles of the President and of the Secretary did not essentially differ.

The specimen pages of the work by Mr. Greeley from which we quote the sentence above, lead us to think that the work itself will be an interesting and valuable contribution to the history of the great Rebellion. It seems to be written in a fair spirit, and with great regard for accuracy of statement.